

CLAIMS

Therefore, having thus described the invention, at least the following is claimed:

1 1. An email system for providing email service to a user, comprising:
2 a plurality of detection mechanisms that detect undesired email messages; and
3 a user interface configured to visually represent that a particular undesired email
4 message was detected using a particular detection mechanism.

1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of detection mechanisms
2 includes a mechanism that refuses to detect an email message if the sender of the email
3 message is on a list of senders authorized by the user.

1 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of detection mechanisms
2 includes a mechanism that detects an email message if the sender of the email message is
3 on a list of unauthorized senders.

1 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of detection mechanisms
2 includes a mechanism that detects an email message if the email message contains a
3 textual content string that is on a list of unauthorized textual content strings.

1 5. The system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of detection mechanisms
2 include a mechanism that is configured to:
3 analyze the overall content of previous email messages that have been detected;
4 and
5 detect an email message if the content of the message is similar to the overall
6 content of the previous messages.

1 6. The system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of detection mechanisms
2 include:

3 a first detection mechanism that detects an email message if the sender of the
4 email message is not on a list of senders authorized by the user;

5 a second detection mechanism that detects an email message if the sender of the
6 email message is on a list of unauthorized senders;

7 a third detection mechanism that detects an email message if the email message
8 contains a textual content string that is on a list of unauthorized textual content string; and

9 a fourth detection mechanism that is configured to:

10 analyze the overall content of previous email messages that have been
11 detected;

12 compare the content of an email message to the overall content and assign
13 a score reflective of a level of similarity for the email message; and

14 detect the email message if the score is higher than a designated score.

1 7. The system of claim 1, wherein the particular undesired email message is,
2 within an email identification list, visually represented using a particular color that is
3 associated with the particular detection mechanism, wherein the particular color is
4 different from another color that is associated with another detection mechanism.

1 8. The system of claim 1, wherein the particular undesired email message is,
2 within an email identification list, visually represented using a particular lettering style
3 that is associated with the particular detection mechanism, wherein the particular lettering
4 style is different from another lettering style that is associated with another detection
5 mechanism.

1 9. A system for providing email service, comprising:
2 means for providing a plurality of detection mechanisms that detect undesired
3 email messages;
4 means for designating an email message as being undesirable according to a
5 particular detection scheme;
6 means for marking the email message with a particular identifier of the particular
7 detection scheme; and
8 means for displaying the email message with the particular identifier in a
9 particular visual manner that is associated with the particular identifier.

1 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the plurality of detection mechanisms
2 includes a means for detecting of an email message from a sender that is not on a list of
3 senders authorized by the user.

1 11. The system of claim 9, wherein the plurality of detection mechanisms
2 includes a means for detecting an email message from a sender that is on a list of
3 unauthorized senders.

1 12. The system of claim 9, wherein the plurality of detection mechanisms
2 includes a means for detecting an email message that contains a textual content string that
3 is on a list of unauthorized textual content strings.

1 13. The system of claim 9, wherein the plurality of detection mechanisms
2 includes a means for detecting an email message that has content that matches a
3 designated level of overall content of previous messages that were determined to be
4 undesirable.

1 14. The system of claim 9, wherein the plurality of detection mechanisms
2 includes:
3 means for detecting an email message from a sender that is not on a list of senders
4 authorized by the user;
5 a means for detecting an email message from a sender that is on a list of
6 unauthorized senders;
7 a means for detecting an email message that contains a textual content string that
8 is on a list of unauthorized textual content strings; and
9 means for detecting an email message that has content that matches a designated
10 level of overall content of previous messages that were determined to be undesirable.

1 15. A method for providing email service, comprising the steps of:
2 providing a plurality of detection approaches for detecting undesired email
3 messages;
4 designating an email message as being undesirable according to a particular
5 detection scheme;
6 marking the email message with a particular identifier of the particular detection
7 scheme; and
8 displaying the email message with the particular identifier in a particular visual
9 manner that is associated with the particular identifier.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the plurality of detection approaches
2 include an approach that detects an email message if the sender of the email message is
3 not on a list of senders authorized by the user.

1 17. The method of claim 15, wherein the plurality of detection approaches
2 includes an approach that detects an email message if the sender of the email message is
3 on a list of unauthorized senders.

1 18. The method of claim 15, wherein the plurality of detection approaches
2 include an approach that detects an email message if the email message contains a textual
3 content string that is on a list of unauthorized textual content strings.

1 19. The method of claim 15, wherein the plurality of detection approaches
2 include an approach that analyzes the overall content of previous email messages that
3 have been detected and detects an email message if the content of the message is similar
4 to the overall content of previous messages.

1 20. The method of claim 15, wherein the plurality of detection approaches
2 include:

3 an approach that detects an email message if the sender of the email message is
4 not on a list of senders authorized by the user;
5 an approach that detects an email message if the sender of the email message is on
6 a list of unauthorized senders;
7 an approach that detects an email message if the email message contains a textual
8 content string that is on a list of unauthorized textual content strings; and
9 an approach that analyzes the overall content of previous email messages that
10 have been detected and detects an email message if the content of the message is similar
11 to the overall content of the previous messages according to a designated content score.

1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the particular visual manner is a
2 particular color that is associated with a first detection approach, wherein the particular
3 color is different from another color that is associated with a second detection approach.

1 22. The method of claim 20, wherein the particular visual manner is a
2 particular lettering style that is associated with a first detection approach, wherein the
3 particular lettering style is different from another lettering style that is associated with a
4 second detection approach.

1 23. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of:
2 recognizing which particular detection approach designated the email message as
3 being undesirable upon the visual representation of the email message.